

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended only to correct a typographical error of which the undersigned has become aware, and to make some minor grammatical improvements. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 4 has been amended to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better U.S. form. In particular, independent claim 4 has been amended to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the projected portions become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto a human skin. See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0015] on page 3.

In addition, new claims 6-17 have been added to recite additional distinguishing features of the present invention which are disclosed throughout the specification and drawings.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over USP 4,517,999 ("Finamore"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, a disposable wig is provided which comprises a base formed of a thin sheet having a thickness on the order of microns (μ), hair segments implanted onto the base and having root portions protruding from an underside of the base, and an adhesive layer formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness, wherein the adhesive layer comprises:

(i) projected portions which engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments protruding from the underside of the base, and (ii) remaining portions. Significantly, as recited in amended independent claim 4, the projected portions of the adhesive layer become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto a human skin. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 4, the uniform

thickness of the adhesive layer is in a range of up to about 20 times greater than the thickness of the base.

With this structure, since the thickness of the base is on the order of microns (μ), an advantageous effect is achieved whereby the wig of the claimed present invention can be better applied than conventional wigs to a skin area where compatibility to the skin is required, for example, an eyebrow or mustache. See the disclosure in paragraph [0034] on page 7 in the specification.

In addition, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, when the wig is fitted onto a substantially flat surface of a human skin (for example, the scalp), the projected portions at the underside of the base become substantially flat due to planar contact of the entire underside of the base (through the adhesive layer) with the flat surface of the scalp. As a result, the projected portions appear at the top surface of the base. Accordingly, the projected portions that appear at the top surface of the base and that engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments are raised when compared with the remaining (recessed) portions. And when the top surface of the base becomes rugged with the projected portions and the remaining portions upon fitting of the wig, another advantageous effect is achieved whereby light that

hits the base is irregularly reflected so that the base will not glisten and the wig is hard to be distinguished from true hair. See Fig. 3 and the disclosure in paragraphs [0013] and [0014] on page 2 in the specification.

Still further, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4, due to the projected portions becoming reversed and raised toward the top surface of the base, a reversal phenomenon is produced wherein the underside of the adhesive layer having the downward projected portions becomes flat and the top surface of the base becomes rugged with the upward projected portions. As a result, the root portions of the implanted hair segments are urged by the scalp through the thin adhesive layer toward the top surface side of the base, thereby producing still another advantageous effect of reinforcing the fixing of the implanted hair segments and preventing the implanted hair segments from being removed from the base. See the disclosure in paragraph [0015] on page 3 in the specification.

Yet still further, since, as recited in claim 4, the thickness of the adhesive layer is in a range of up to about 20 times greater than the thickness of the base, and since, as recited in claim 5, the projected portions of the adhesive layer have a height of about 80 microns, it becomes possible to

achieve the structure of the adhesive layer with the projection portions and the remaining portions whereby the projection portions can become reversed and raised toward the surface side of the base. With this structure, the tensile strength of the base increases with increased thickness of the base, whereas compatibility of the base to skin increases with reduced thickness of the base. Accordingly, when applied to a skin area such as an eyebrow, eyelash or mustache, for example, that requires compatibility rather than tensile strength, a wig with a thin base can be provided. In addition, with respect to the ratios between the thickness B of the adhesive layer and the thickness A of the base, for example, when applied to a sudoresis or a skin area of greater sebum secretion, a wig having a greater B/A ratio can be provided so that the adhesive layer can absorb sweat and sebum. By contrast, when applied to a skin area at which own hair is to be grown, a wig having a smaller B/A ratio can be provided to prevent interruption of growth of real hair. Therefore, with the structure of the claimed present invention, yet another advantageous effect is achieved whereby different B/A ratios may be selectively used depending upon the skin area and condition to which the wig is applied. See the disclosure in paragraphs [0033] and [0034] on pages 6 and 7 in the specification.

With respect to the cited prior art, Finamore merely discloses a customized hairpiece comprising a flexible-sheet member 116 and a reticulate member 128 or 130. The flexible-sheet member 116 of Finamore has a predetermined curvature and is adapted substantially to conform to a head of a preselected user. The sheet member 116 has hole means for permitting substantial dissipation of heat and/or perspiration away from the head and through the sheet member 116. The reticulate member 128 or 130 is attached to the sheet member 116 and covers the hole means, and includes a plurality of openings which allows dissipation of heat and/or perspiration to occur. See the abstract of Finamore. In addition, as recited in claim 7 of Finamore, the sheet member comprises a polyester-based thermoplastic polyurethane film having a thickness of around 4 millimeters.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore does not at all disclose or suggest the above described advantageous effects and features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore does not disclose or suggest that the thickness of the sheet member 116 thereof is on the order of microns (μ). In fact, contrary to the claimed present invention, Finamore clearly discloses that the thickness of the sheet member 116 thereof is on the order of millimeters (i.e., 4 millimeters).

And with the structure of the hairpiece of Finamore, when the (4 millimeter thick) sheet member 116 is attached to a human skin, it makes the borders between the sheet member 116 and the skin evident to touch and sight. In other words, if a base including the adhesive layer formed on the underside thereof is not formed to be a thin skin, the base provides an effect which is remarkably (negatively) different than the present invention when the base is fitted onto human skin. That is, although the thin base according to the present invention is applicable for use in, for example, eyebrows, eyelashes, and beards, the thick base of Finamore is not applicable for these uses.

In addition, since Finamore merely discloses a thick, millimeter order base, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore does not disclose or suggest that projected portions become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the sheet member 116 when the wig is fitted onto the human skin, in the manner of the claimed present invention. Clearly therefore, the advantageous effect of irregularly reflecting light that hits the base so that the base will not glisten and the wig will be hard to distinguish from true hair is not produced with the hairpiece of Finamore. It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that since Finamore merely discloses a thick, millimeter order base and since Finamore does not explicitly disclose that the root

portions 148a thereof are urged by human skin toward the top surface side of the sheet member 116, Finamore also cannot achieve the advantageous effect of reinforcing the fixing of the implanted hair segments and preventing the implanted hair segments from being removed from the sheet member 116, in the manner of the claimed present invention.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore does not disclose or suggest the claimed structural features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4 whereby a thickness of the base is on the order of microns (μ), the adhesive layer is formed on an entire underside of the base with a uniform thickness, the adhesive layer has projected portions and remaining portions, wherein the projected portions engage root portions of the implanted hair segments protruding from the underside of the base, and the projected portions become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto a human skin, and wherein the thickness of the adhesive layer is in a range of up to about 20 times greater than the thickness of the base.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the other cited prior art references also do not disclose or suggest the above described claimed structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 4 and claims 5-17 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguish over the cited prior art references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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